Lutheri 21. Posthuma:

OR,

LUTHER'S last Divine DISCOURSES.



MARTIN LVTHER

Bell (H.)
K

Cum Privilegio PARLAMENTI Angliæ.

LONDON,
Printed by *William Du-gard*, Anno, 1650.

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42.



LUTHERI Poſthuma.

A brief and true Relation *touching the miraculous preſerving of a Book in* Germanie, *called* Martin Luther's *laſt* divine Diſcourſes; *and how the ſaid Book of late years, by God's ſpecial Providence was diſcovered lying under the ground, where it had been hid* 52 *years from the knowledg of all men, which Book, few years ſince, was ſent over hither here into* England, *unto a Gentleman named Captain* Henrie Bell, *who hath taken* 5 *years pains about the tranſlating thereof, out of the high* Germane *into the* Engliſh *Tongue; and hath now made it readie for the Preſs. The Book is in Folio, containing about two hundred ſheets of Paper.*

I Captain Henrie Bell, do hereby declare both to the preſent Age, and alſo to Poſteritie, that, beeing emploied beyond the Seas in *State-affairs* diverſ years together, both by King *James*, and alſo by the late King *Charls*, in *Germanie* I did hear and underſtand in all places great bewailing and lamentation made by reaſon of

the destroying and burning of above 80000 of *Martin Luthers* Books, entituled his last *Divine Discourses*.

For after such time as God stirred up the Spirit of *Martin Luther* to detect the corruptions and abuses of Poperie, and to preach Christ, and clearly to set forth the simplicitie of the Gospel, Manie Kings, Princes, and States, Imperial Cities, and Hanse-Towns fell from the Popish Religion, and became Protestants, as their Posterities still are, and remain to this verie daie. Wee also, about that time, here in *England*, fell from the Pope, and became Protestants.

And for the further advancement of the great work of Reformation then begun, the foresaid Princes, and the rest did then order, that the said *Divine Discourses* of *Luther*, should forthwith bee printed; and that everie Parish should have and receiv one of the foresaid printed Books into everie Church throughout all their Principalities and Dominions, to bee chained therein, and kept in memorie of that blessed Reformation.

Upon which divine work, or *Discourses* the Reformation begun in *Germanie* was wonderfully promoted and encreased, and spred both here in *England*, and other Countries beside.

But afterward it so fell out, that the Pope then living, *viz. Gregorie* 13, understanding what great hurt and prejudice hee, and his Popish Religion had alreadie received by reason of the said *Luther's Divine Discourses*; and also fearing that the same might bring fnrther contempt and mischief upon himself, and upon the Popish Church, hee therefore, to prevent the same

fame, did fiercely ſtir up and inſtigate the Emperor, then in beeing, *viz. Rudolphus* 2, to make an *Edict* thorow the whole Empire, That all the foreſaid printed Books ſhould bee burned; and alſo, That it ſhould bee *Death* for anie perſon to have or to keep a Copie thereof, but alſo to burn the ſame: which *Edict* was ſpeedily put in execution accordingly; in ſo much that not one of all the ſaid printed Books, nor ſo much as anie one Copie of the ſame, could bee found out, nor heard of in anie place.

Yet it pleaſed God, that *Anno* 1626 a *Germane* Gentleman, named *Caſparus Van Sparr*, with whom, in the time of my ſtaying in *Germanie* about King *James's* buſineſs, I became verie familiarly known and acquainted, having occaſion to build upon the old foundation of an houſ, wherein his Grandfather dwelt at that time, when the ſaid *Edict* was publiſhed in *Germanie* for the burning of the foreſaid Books, And digging deep into the ground under the ſaid old foundation, one of the ſaid Original printed Books, was there happily found, lying in a deep obſcure hole, beeing wrapped in a ſtrong linnen cloth, which was waxed all over with Bee's wax within and without; whereby the Book was preſerved fair without anie blemiſh.

And at the ſame time *Ferdinandus* 2 beeing Emperor in *Germanie*, who was a ſevere enemie and perſecutor of the Proteſtant-Religion, the foreſaid Gentleman, and Grand-childe to him that had hidden the ſaid Books, in that obſcure hole, fearing that if the ſaid Emperor ſhould get knowledg, that one of the ſaid Books

was yet forth-coming, and in his custodie, whereby not onely himself might bee brought into trouble, but also the Book in danger to bee destroyed, as all the rest were so long before; & also calling Mee to minde, and knowing that I had the high *Dutch* Tongue verie perfect, did send the said Original Book over hither into *England* unto mee: And therewith did write unto mee a letter, wherein hee related the passages of the preserving and finding out of the said Book.

And also hee earnestly moved mee in his letter, That, for the Advancement of Gods Glorie, and of Christ's Church, I would take the pains to Translate the said Book, To the end, that most excellent *Divine* work of *Luther* might bee brought again to light.

Whereupon I took the said Book before mee, and manie times began to Translate the same, but alwaies I was hindered therein, beeing called upon about other businesse; Insomuch, that by no possible means I could remain by that work. Then about six weeks after I had received the said Book, it fell out, that I beeing in bed with my wife, one night between twelv and one of the clock, shee beeing asleep, but my self yet awake, there appeared unto mee an ancient man, standing at my bed's side, arraied all in white, having a long and broad white beard hanging down to his girdle-steed, who taking mee by my right ear, spake these words following unto mee; *Sirrah! Will not you take time to* Translate *that Book which is sent unto you out of* Germanie? *I will shortly provide for you, both place and time to do it*: And then hee vanished away out of my sight.

Where-

Whereupon beeing much thereby affrighted, I fell into an extreme ſweat, Inſomuch that my Wife awaking, and finding mee all over wett, ſhee asked mee what I ailed? I told her, what I had ſeen and heard; But I never did heed, nor regard viſions nor dreams. And ſo the ſame fell ſoon out of my minde.

Then about a fortnight after I had ſeen that viſion, on a Sunday I went to *White-hall* to hear the Sermon, after which ended, I returned to my lodging, which was then in *Kings-ſtreet* at *Weſtminſter*, and ſitting down to dinner with my Wife, two Meſſengers were ſent from the whole Council-board with a Warrant to carrie mee to the Keeper of the Gate-houſ *Weſtminſter*, there to bee ſafely kept, until further Order from the Lords of the Council; which was don without ſhewing mee anie cauſ at all, wherefore I was committed. Upon which ſaid Warrant I was kept there ten whole years cloſe Priſoner: Where I ſpent five years thereof about the Tranſlating of the ſaid Book: Inſomuch as I found the words verie true which the old man in the foreſaid viſion did ſaie unto mee. For to this preſent daie I could never know anie cauſ why the Lords committed mee.

THen after I had finiſhed the ſaid Tranſlation in the Priſon, the late Archbiſhop of *Canterburie*, D: *Land* underſtanding that I had Tranſlated ſuch a Book called *Martin Luther's laſt Divine Diſcourſes*, ſent unto mee his Chaplain, Doctor *Bray* (who is yet living) into the Priſon with this Meſſage following:

Captain

"*Capt.* Bell, *my Lo. Grace of* Canterburie *hath sent* "*mee unto you, to tell you, that his Grace hath understood* "*that you have translated a Book of* Luthers, *touching* "*which Book, his Grace manie years before did hear* "*of the burning of so manie thousands in* Germanie *by* "*the then-Emperor. His Grace therefore doth desire you* "*that you would send unto him the said original Book* "*in* Dutch, *and also your Translation; which, after* "*his Grace hath perused, shall bee returned safely unto* "*you.*

Whereupon I told Dr *Bray*, that I had taken a great deal of pains in *translating* the said Book, and was verie loath to part with it out of my hands, fearing that som things might bee copied out of the said Book, whereby the Printing and sale thereof might bee prejudiced.

And therefore I desired him to excuse mee to his Grace, that I could not part from it, with which answer hee returned again to his Master.

Whereupon the next day after hee sent him unto mee again, and bid him tell mee that *upon his honor*, the Book should bee as safe in his custodie, if not safer, then in mine own.

For hee would lock it up in his own Cabinet, to the end no man might com unto it, but onely himself. Thereupon I knowing it would bee a thing bootless for mee to refuse the sending of them, by reason hee was then of such great power, that hee would have it *nolens volens*, I sent them both unto him. Then after hee kad kept it in his custodie two months, and had daily read therein, hee sent the said

Dr

Dr unto mee, to tell mee that I had performed *a work worthie of eternal memorie.* And that hee had *never read a more excellent divine work:* Yet saying that som things therein were fitting to bee left out, and desired mee not to think long, that hee did not return them unto mee so soon again. The reason was, becaus that the *more hee did read therein,* the *more desire hee had to go on therewith*; and so presenting mee with 10 *li.* in gold, hee returned back again.

After which, when hee had had it in his custodie one whole year, and that I understood hee had perused it all over, Then I sent unto his Grace, and humbly desired, that his Grace would bee pleased to return mee my books again. Whereupon hee sent mee word by the said Dr *Bray* that hee had not as yet perused it so thorowly over, as hee desired to do; Then I staid yet a year longer before I sent to him again.

In which time I heard for certain, that it was concluded by the King and Council, that a Parlament should forthwith bee called. At which News, I did much rejoice. And then I sent unto his Grace an humble Petition, and therein desired the returning of my book again; otherwise I told him I should bee enforced to make it known, and to complain of him to the Parlament, which was then comming on. Whereupon hee sent unto mee again safely both the said *Original* book, and my *Translations*, and caused his Chaplain, the said Doctor, to tell mee, that hee would make it known unto his Majestie, what an excellent piece of work I had translated, and that hee

would procure Order from his Majestie to have the said Translation Printed, and to bee dispersst throughout the whole Kingdom, as it was in *Germanie*, and as hee had heard thereof; and thereupon hee presented me again with 40 *li.* in gold.

And presently after I was set at libertie by warrant from the whole Hous of Lords, according to his Majestie's direction in that behalf: But shortly afterwards the Arch-bishop fell into his troubles, and was by the Parlament sent unto the Tower, and afterwards beheaded. Insomuch that I could never since hear anie thing touching the Printing of my Book.

The Hous of Commons having then notice that I had translated the fore-said Book; they sent for mee, and did appoint a Committee to see it, and the Translation, and diligentlie to make enquirie whether the Translation did agree with the Original or no; Whereupon they desired mee to bring the same before them, sitting then in the Treasurie-Chamber. And Sir *Ed. Dearing* beeing Chair-man said unto mee, that hee was acquainted with a learned Minister benefic'd in *Essex*, who had lived long in *England*, but was born in *high Germanie* in the *Palatinate* named M^r^ *Paul Amiraut*, whom the Committee sending for, desired him to take both the original, and my Translation into his custodie, and diligently to compare them together, and to make report unto the said Committee, whether hee found that I had rightly and truely translated it according to the original: which report hee made accordingly, and they beeing satisfied therein, referred it to two of the Assemblie, M^r^ *Charls Herle*, and M^r^ *Edward Corbet*

Corbet, desiring them diligentlie to peruse the same, and to make report unto them, if they thought it fitting to be Printed and published.

Whereupon they made report dated the 11 of *April* 1645. that they found it to bee an excellent divine work, worthie the light and publishing, especially in regard *Luther*, in the said discourses, did revoke his opinion, which hee formerlie held, touching Consubstantiation in the Sacrament. Whereupon the Houf of Commons the 24 of *Februarie* 1646. did give Order for the Printing thereof: But I have been hitherto hindered from putting it to the Press, in regard my monies are still kept from mee, which are due unto mee from the Crown, amounting to above thirtie thousand pounds, as I can make it clearlie appear by the great Seal of *England*, untill such time as the Parlament have time to hear my grievances.

Thus having been latelie desired to set down in writing the relation of the passages abovesaid concerning the said Book, as well for the satisfaction of judicious and godlie Christians; as for the conservation of the perpetual memorie of Gods extraordinarie providence in the miraculous preservation of the foresaid Divine *Discourses*, and now bringing them again to light: I have don the same according to the plain truth thereof, not doubting but they will prove a notable advantage of Gods glorie, and the good and edification of the whole Church, and an unspeakable consolation of everie particular member of the same.

Given under my hand the third day of *Julie* 1650.

Henrie Bell.

24 *Feb.* 1646.

Copie of the Order from the Houſ of Commons.

WHereas Captain Henrie Bell *hath ſtrangelie diſcovered and found a Book of* Martin Luther's *called his* laſt Divine Diſcourſes, *which was for a long time verie merveilouſly preſerved in* Germanie;

The which Book the ſaid Henrie Bell *at his great coſts and pains hath tranſlated into the* Engliſh *out of the* Germane *Tongue, and the Tranſlation and ſubſtance thereof is approved by Reverend Divines of the Aſſemblie, as appear's by a Certificate under their hands;*

It is Ordered *and* Ordeined *by the Lords and Commons aſſembled in Parlament, That the ſaid* Henrie Bell *ſhal have the ſole diſpoſal and benefit of Printing the ſaid Book tranſlated into* Engliſh *by him as aforeſaid for the ſpace of fourteen years to commence from the date hereof. And that none do Print or Re-print the ſame, but ſuch as ſhall bee Licenſed by the ſaid Captain by Autoritie under his hand.*

Henrie Elſyng.

Vera Copia.

Julie the 3. 1650.

I Captain HENRIE BELL, do hereby autorize WILLIAM DUGARD, Maſter of Arts, to have the Printing of the ſaid Books, and to binde them up.

And it is my intent and deſire that Maſter DU-GARD do employ my verie truſtie and loving friend FREDERICK PORTER to have the Examination of the ſaid Book, while it is a Printing, and about other buſineſs concerning the ſame, As hee ſhall think fitting.

HENRIE BELL.

A Copie of Mr *Paul Amiraut* his Certificat.

ACcording to the direction given unto mee in *November* laſt, by the Committee of this Honorable Aſſemblie, I have with diligence compared the Original printed Book in high *Dutch* (Intituled *Luther's Divine Diſcourſes*) with Captain HENRIE BELL'S Tranſlation of the ſame printed Book, into the *Engliſh* Tongue.

And I do finde what Captain BELL hath Tranſlated, the ſame doth agree with that, which is in the Original; And that ſom things expreſſed in the Original (which are thought to bee impertinent) are left out, and not Tranſlated.

PAUL AMIRAUT.

A Regiſter of the chief Heads, and Points conteined in theſe laſt diſcourſes of MARTIN LUTHER.

1 OF God's word, or the holie Scriptures.
2 Of God's works.
3 Of the Creation.
4 Of the world and of the Manner thereof.
5 Of Idolatrie.
6 Of the holie Trinitie.
7 Of the Lord Chriſt.
8 Of the holie Ghoſt.
9 Of ſin.
10 Of Freewill.
11 Of the holie Catechiſm.
12 Of the Law and Goſpel.
13 That faith in Chriſt juſtifieth before God.
14 Of good works.
15 Of Praier.
16 Of the Confeſſion and conſtancie of the Doctrine.
17 Of Baptiſm.
18 Of auricular Confeſſion.
19 Of the Sacrament of the Lords Supper.
20 Of the Chriſtian Church.
21 Of excommunication, and Juriſdictions of the Church.
22 Of Preachers and Church-Officers.
23 Of the Antichriſt or Pope.
24 Of humane Traditions.
25 Of the Maſs.
26 Of Purgatorie.
27 Of ſeveral Councels.
28 Of Imperial Dyets.
29 Of the Books of the Fathers of the Church.
30 Of the School-Divines.
31 Of the Old and New Teſtaments.
32 Of the Patriarks and Prophets.
33 Of the Apoſtles and Diſciples of Chriſt.
34 Of Angels.
35 Of the Devil and his works.
36 Of Witch-craft.
37 Of Tribulation and Temptation.
38 Of Luthers Adverſaries.
39 Of certain Papiſts fearful and ſudden deaths.
40 Of Friers.
41 Of Cardinals and Biſhops.

42 Of the Popes Spiritual Lawes.
43 Of Cerimonies.
44 Of Seducers and Sectaries that oppoſed *Luther*.
45 Of Chriſtians and a Chriſtian life.
46 Of Hypocrites and falſ Brethren.
47 Of Sophiſtrie.
48 Of offences.
49 Of the true Service of God.
50 Of Martrimonie.
51 Of Magiſtrates and Rulers.
52 Of Potentates and Princes.
53 Of diſcord.
54 Of ſickneſſes and the cauſſes thereof.
55 Of death.
56 Of the Reſurrection and everlaſting life.
57 Of Damnation and Hell.
58 Of the laſt daie of Judgment.
59 Of Allegories, and ſpiritual Expoſitions, expounding of the Scriptures, and how wee ought to carrie our ſelvs therein.
60 Of the Legends and ſtories of the Saints.
61 Of ſpiritual and Church-livings.
62 Of wars.
63 Of valiant Warriors, and champions.
64 Of conſtreined defence.
65 Of the Nobilitie.
66 Of Lawyers.
67 Of Schools and Univerſities.
68 Of Muſick.
69 Of Languages.
70 Of Aſtronomie, and Aſtrologie.
71 Of ſigns in the aër.
72 Of ſtudying.
73 Of learned men.
74 Of the Jews and their wickedneſſes.
75 Of the Turks.
76 Of Countries and Cities.
76 Of Rome.
78 Of Vocation and calling.
79 Of drunkennels.
80 Of the Court-life.

Alſo manie other diſcourſes of *Luther* touching all manner of affairs; collected together out of his written books.

FINIS.

TESTIMONIES of diverſ learned and pious Divines concerning *Luther*'s DISCOURSES.

To my reverend friend Mr J. L.

SIR!

I Have ſent you Captain *Bell*'s Tranſlation of *Luther's Divine Diſcourſes*; a work of immenſ labor, and eternal memorie, if you conſider God's wonderful providence in preſerving the Book, as the Narration from Captain *Bell* concerning the ſame will fully inform you. I have, with a great deal of care and diligence, peruſed ſom pieces thereof, to the end, I might ſpeak ſomthing of mine own knowledg: And I finde ſo manie excellent and pretious things conteined in it, and the work ſo full fraught with divine traths, pious meditations, familiar diſcourſes with learned men concerning moſt points of Religion, excellent expoſitions of Scripture, particular experiences of God's waies of Providence and dealing with his children, cordial comforts in times of diſtreſs, wholeſom counſels, ſerious exhortations, ſolid inſtructions, profitable and pleaſant hiſtories; and all laid down in ſo plain a manner to the capacitie of the meaneſt Chriſtian, and according to the ſimplicitie of the Goſpel, that I wonder not that the Pope was ſo much enraged againſt it, as well knowing that the divulging of it would more weaken his power, then an Armie of twentie thouſand men. And wee may well admire the divine light of God's gracious Spirit, breaking out of, and utterly diſpelling the foggie clouds of ignorance in

those approaching times of the Gospel. In a word, 'tis a Book so pious, profitable, and so pleasantly insinuating into the soul of a Christian, that the Reader shall hardly ever bee wearie, but never satisfied. My humble suit to you therefore is, that you would pleas (if your leisure will permit) to peruse the work and to pas your judgment upon it. Your ahprobation (whereof, upon perusal, I doubt not) will much advantage the business. And who know's whether God in his wise dispensation, hath reserved it to these times, who have now opportunitie to get eternal honor in encouragement of so rare a piece of service to the Churh and people of God: which notwithstanding som would suppress.

The Parlament were once pleased to take cognizance of it, and of Captain *Bell*'s pains therein: and were willing to give him a privilege for the printing of it. I could wish, that by your good help and means, they would pleas to resume so honorable and pious design, and to add the stamp of Autoritie for the advancement of it. for which all good Christians shall have caus to bless God for them. Thus in haste, commending the work, and your self to God's special providence, I take my leav and ever rest

Your verie loving frind

and servant

W. D.

(Reverend Sir!)

I Have had the good opportunitie to read ſeverall pieces (as they came to hand) of that excellent Manuſcript of *Martin Luther*'s familiar Colloquies with friends upon emergent Occaſions: And (to mee) it is not without a ſpeciall Providence, that this one Book (of many thouſands that were burnt in *Germanie* by a ſtrict Edict of *Rodolphus* the 2d then Emperour yet) ſhould 'ſcape the fire, and lie hid for many years, and impriſon'd under ground, till (to a Miracle) it was brought forth, and ſent over into *England*, where (not without a Miracle neither) after many years Impriſonment of the painfull Tranſlator of it out of the High Dutch, it was taught to ſpeak *Engliſh*. I ſee the Book is large, and fill's with many pages, but and withall, there are great inlargements and diſcoveries of a gracious and Divine Spirit in the Matter of it, which yet, I obſerv, run's not (all) in one and the ſame Channell, but emptie's it ſelf into divers precious and pleaſant ſtreams of Comforts, Counſels, Hiſtories, directions to the weak, incouragements to ſtronger Chriſtians, reſolving doubts, clearing dark places of Scripture; and (as the Spirit of *Luther* was abundantly drawn out in that Age) hee convinceth powerfully in the book, and by Scripture-Argument, of the follie and madneſs of the popiſh religion, and diſcover's with much evidence the ſubtilties, and ſophiſtries of that abomination. In all

which, the Man of God, this faithfull Servant of Jesus Christ hath shewed himself not onely a workman that needeth not to bee ashamed, and deserv'd well of the past generation, but hath don a work very well worthie the present times: And, surely, would the State pleas to recommend it to the Press, and make it publick, it might bee of singular use to the Saints and people of God in this Nation.

I remain

(Sir!)

Your verie affectionate friend and brother in the work of the Gospel.

J. L.

SIR!

THe Pieces of *Luther's* familiar Conferences which you have ſent unto mee, I have peruſed, and, as my leiſure would permit, curſorily: the reſt which I have not yet ſeen, are no doubt, like unto theſe. I ſhall therefore, *ex ungue leonem*, tell you my opinion of the whole; which is, that herein is a full Character of the free, and zealous ſpirit of Doctor *Luther*, who was a man whom God raiſed in his generation, with invincible courage, to beat down the ſtrongeſt holds of Satan, wherein for manie Generations hee had captivated the ſpirits of our Fore-fathers under Poperie. The depth, and ſoliditie of his judgment may bee diſcerned in the Writings which hee himſelf did publiſh in his life-time; but in this collection of his Extemporarie Diſcourſes, publiſhed ſince his death, the fulneſs of his Affection, and genuine readineſs of his Spirit may be ſeen, which did incline him to advance the Truth of the Goſpel, and manifeſt the Teſtimonie of Jeſus upon all occaſions; whence it appear's that hee did intend to Preach the Word, and to bee inſtant, not onlie in ſeaſon, but out of ſeaſon alſo. And trulie I have met (in that which I have lookt upon) with manie excellent and fundamental Truths, neceſſarie to bee minded in this Age, as well as in that wherein he ſpake them; and the gracefulneſs which they have in their familiar, and careleſs dreſs, doth make them the more commendable to all men of ingenuitie, not onlie of popular Capacities, but even of more raiſed thoughts. Whence I do probably conjecture, that the plaineſs, and great varietie of matters contained in theſe Diſcourſes did in the firſt Reformation ingratiate the deliverie; and inſinuate the conſideration of moſt eminent Truths, with acceptance unto all men's apprehenſions, ſo far, as to cauſ the enemies of thoſe Truths to endeavor the ſuppreſſing of this Book, which they found to bee ſo much taking

with everie bodie; and ſo full of deadlie blowes given to their Superſtition, and Hierarchie; to their Profaneſs, Hypocriſie, and Impietie. And although it cannot rationally bee expected, that at that firſt dawning of the Goſpel light, all ſpiritual Truths ſhould bee known in that perfection whereunto God hath brought the knowing profeſſors of this Age; yet I am perſwaded that the defects which are in ſom parts which ſpeak him a man like to others, will not bee prejudicial to the evidence of Truths in other parts; but that unto the popular, and vulgar reader among us, the whole will be no leſs uſeful now, then in former time it was unto the *German* Profeſſors. If the ſtate ſhould not be willing to recommend it to the Preſs; yet the name of *Luther* will be able to draw moſt mens affections to look after it; and the diſcreet Reader will not finde cauſ to repent him of the peruſal thereof, but rather much good matter of Edification, and Confirmation in the Truth, and myſterie of Godlineſs, whereof the Lord make us all, by all means more and more partakers, in him I reſt,

Sir,

Your trulie affectionate friend and ſervant in the Goſpel,

Weſtminſter this 30 Decemb. 1650.

John Durie.

To the Committee of the Honorable Houſe of Commons concerning PRINTING.

ACcording to an Order directed unto us by this Honorable Committee, wee have peruſed ſo much of Maſter *Henrie Bell*'s Tranſlation of the book entituled, MARTIN LUTHER's *laſt Divine Diſcourſes*, as will enable us to give this Teſtimonie and judgement of the whole:

Wee finde manie excellent divine things are conteined in the Book worthie the light and publick view. Amongſt which LUTHER profeſſeth that hee acknowledgeth his error which hee formerly held touching the reall preſence *corporaliter in Cœna Domini*.

But wee finde withall manie impertinent things: ſom things which will require a grain or two of Sale: and ſom things which will require a Marginall note or a Preface.

Novemb. 10. 1646.

CHARLES HERLE.
EDW. CORBETT.

Aug. 22. 1650.

THeſe laſt Divine Diſcourſes of that learned and famous Servant of God *Martin Luther*, having been peruſed by two learned Divines of the Aſſemblie appointed for that ſervice, and approved by them to bee Orthodox and judicious; and my ſelf likewiſe having peruſed ſom good part of them, according to the time allotted to mee, and finding them, according to their teſtimonie, to bee ſound and ſolid, learned, pious, and profitable, I alſo approve them as well worthie to bee printed, and much deſire that all good means may bee uſed, as the wiſdom of the State ſhall think fitteſt, whereby they may bee made moſt publick, for the ſingular benefit of God's Church and people living in theſe Dominions.

Joh. Downame.

To the Moſt Honorable and Supreme Power of *England's* Common-Wealth in PARLAMENT now Aſſembled.

The Humble Petition of Captain *Henrie Bell*,

Shewing,

WHereas, on the 24th of *Februarie* 1646, Order was given in Parlament (A Copie whereof is hereunto annexed) for the Printing a Book intituled *Martin Luther's laſt Divine Diſcourſes*; which Book your Petitioner did Tranſlate out of ~~the~~ *High-Germane* into the *Engliſh-Tongue*; which Order the Houſ of Commons did then ſend up to the Houſ of Lords for their Concurence therein. But by reaſon of other weightie Affairs, the Houſ of Lords was diſſolved before they could diſpatch the ſame; it reſting now onely in the power of this Moſt Honorable Aſſemblie in Parlament to confirm and accompliſh the ſame. Your Petitioner having alreadie made choice of, and appointed an honeſt and able man to print the ſaid Tranſlated Book, named, *William Du-gard*, Maſter of Arts.

And whereas about 125 years paſt (upon theſe Divine Diſcourſes of *Luther*) the Reformation touching Religion began in *Germanie*, and ever ſince (through God's ſpecial Providence) hath ſtood faſt and increaſed to this preſent daie; And whereas all thoſe States and Princes in *Germanie* (which upon theſe Divine Diſcourſes fell from the Pope and became Proteſtants) made an Act, and Ordered, That everie Pariſh throughout all their Principalities and Dominions ſhould receiv into all, and everie of their Pariſh Churches one of thoſe books conteining theſe Divine Diſcourſes, therein to bee Chained up, and kept in memorie of that bleſſed Reformation; Which laudable Act and Order your Petitioner hopeth that God will ſtir up the hearts of this moſt Honorable Aſſemblie to imitate, in this Common-wealth, eſpecially now at this time, there beeing nothing more deſired and aimed at, then a true Reformation of Religion here in our Churches, according to the plain truth of God's word; to the advancement and furthering whereof, theſe Tranſlated and Divine *Diſcourſes* (by God's moſt merciful aſſiſtance) will bee found verie uſeful and leading thereunto;

Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly praieth, That this moſt Honorable Aſſemblie will bee pleaſed to confirm your foreſaid Order; touching the Printing of theſe Tranſlated *Diſcourſes*; aud therein alſo to *recommend* his ſaid Work into each Countie within *England* and *Wales*; and to Order, That everie Pariſh in all the ſaid Counties may have and receiv into their Churches one of the ſaid Printed books to bee kept therein, as was don in *Germanie*; Your Petitioner beeing content to leav it to the Diſcretion of everie pariſh, what in their free and voluntarie wills they ſhall think fitting to give unto him for the ſaid Book, which hath coſt him five whole year's time to Tranſlate:

Whereby hee may bee the better enabled to defraie the great Coſts and Charges for the Printing and Publiſhing thereof; which otherwiſe hee ſhall not bee able to accompliſh.

And hee ſhall alwaies Praie for the Happie and Proſperous Government of this Moſt Honorable Aſſemblie.